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PAINTINGS BY American Artists

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Isaac D. Fletcher Furniture Sale

Household furnishings and embellishments removed from a Fifth Ave. residence; also additions from the Isaac D. Fletcher collection, were sold at the American Art Galleries last week. A total of \$4,651 was obtained at the first session, Nov. 22.

No. 137—Louis XV bronze clock and candelabra; clock, 34 in. high, candelabra, 49 in. Olivetti, \$500.

At the second session, Saturday afternoon, a total of \$18,136 was realized, making a grand total of \$22,787. Miss R. H. Lorenz, agt., paid \$3,750 for Nos. 260-261, 6 pair of long velvet window curtains, from the Fletcher collection.

Dodd Library Sale

At the fourth and final session of the sale of rare books in Part I of the stock of Robert H. Dodd, at the Anderson Galleries, Thurs. aft., Nov. 21, 234 items yielded a total of \$1,918.25, making a grand total of \$19,974.50.

No. 821—"Vanity Fair" by William M. Thackeray (London, 1847-8), rare first edition, bound from the original parts, was purchased by Curtis Walters for \$300.

No. 820—"A Set of Christmas Books" by W. M. Thackeray (London, 1849), 6 vols., first editions. George D. Smith, \$205.

No. 885—"Letters of Washington to Several of His Friends" (New York, 1778), first edition. Frederick W. Morris, \$100.

Dodd MSS. Sale

Autographs and MSS. contained in the stock of Robert H. Dodd were sold at the Anderson Galleries at the first session, Thurs. eve., Nov. 21, for a total of \$1,934.75.

The leading price, \$495, was paid by R. F. Merrill for No. 113, "A Moral and Political Survey of America," by Nathan Dane (1788-1832), an unpublished original MS., 6 vols.

No. 89—Original autograph MS. of "My Debut As a Literary Person" by "Mark Twain," dated "Vienna, October, 1898," went to G. Wells for \$280.

There were 199 items dispersed at the second session of the Dodd MSS. sale, Friday afternoon, Nov. 22, for which \$1,443.10 was realized.

No. 317—Signature of Thomas Lynch, cut from the title of a volume of Swift's works, very rare, was purchased by George D. Smith, for \$220.

No. 207—Letter from Alexander Hamilton to R. G. Harper, Albany, Feb. 19, 1804. George D. Smith, \$95.

At the third and final session, Friday evening, Nov. 22, 200 items brought a total of \$1,193.65, making a grand total of \$4,571.

No. 425—Autograph letter of Israel Putnam, Major-General in the Revolution, scarce. George D. Smith, \$77.50.

Stillman Library Sale

There were 250 items dispersed at the seventh session of the sale of the private library of the late James Stillman, at the American Art Galleries, Thurs. aft., Nov. 21, for which a total of \$2,325.50 was realized.

No. 1810—"Miscellaneous Books," comprising philosophical, theological, biographical, etc., about 1,690 vols., went to Mr. Mendoza for \$118.

At the eighth and last session, Nov. 21, 339 items (Americana) brought a total of \$3,692.75, making a grand total of \$22,676.75 for the eight sessions.

The Metropolitan Museum paid the highest price, \$480, at the last session, for item No. 1988, "Antiquities of Mexico" by Lord Kingsborough (London, 1831-48), 9 vols.

No. 2069—"View of New York," taken from the Bay near Bedloe's Island, painted by J. G. Chapman and engraved by W. J. Bennett (New York, 1836), went to P. A. Chester for \$330.

Clare-Avery Library Sale

Standard sets of the favorite authors, first editions, and other choice books from the library of E. B. Clare-Avery, were sold at the Anderson Galleries on Monday afternoon and evening, when a total of \$4,857.50 was realized for the 525 items sold.

No. 471a—"The Works of Shakespeare," edited by Henry Irving and Frank A. Marshall (London, 1888-90), extra-illustrated and extended to 40 vols. W. Brackett, \$405.

No. 10—"Arabian Nights" by Richard F. Burton (Benares, 1885-8), literally translated, 16 vols., rare original edition. L. W. Demming, \$152.50.

No. 199—"Le Costume Historique" by M. A. Racinet (Paris, 1888), 6 vols. H. Lowenstein, \$134.

Sale of Antique Arms and Armor

A collection of arms and armor, comprising rare old guns and pistols, edge weapons and scarce books relating to armor formed by Charles Schott, Jr., was dispersed last week by Messrs. Scott & O'Shaughnessy, at 116 Nassau St., for \$18,200.

Good prices were realized, the feature of the sale being the Joseph Manton shotguns and flintlock firearms.

Nos. 49, 51 and 52—The Joseph Manton double-barrel flintlock shotgun, period 1795; the rare Joseph Manton combination percussion and flintlock gun (1812), and the Manton double-barrel tube detonator shotgun (1818), the latter a rarity, brought \$1,200, top price of the sale, from Sumner Healy.

Florence Este Honored

Editor AMERICAN ART NEWS

Dear Sir:

In these days of interrupted mails you may not have learned of an honor conferred upon an American artist in France which should obtain publicity, as it reflects credit upon our achievement in the field of art.

A landscape by Miss Florence Este, the Phila. painter, resident in Paris, has been bought by the French Government from an exhibition at the Goupil Gallery. This is a conspicuous honor at any time, but now when France is carrying the burden of a heavy war debt, it is a special distinction. What country other than France would consider the acquisition of a fine work of art so vitally important that money must be spared for its purchase in such times as these?

Miss Este's canvas which now bears the coveted label "Acquis par l'Etat" has been enthusiastically praised by Cottet, Ménard and other distinguished French artists. It represents a rolling country covered with

ripe grain broken by a valley and a group of tall poplars. The white houses of a little hamlet are touched by the rays of the evening sun.

Very truly yours,

Emily Sartain.

Philadelphia, Nov. 25, 1918.

PRINT DEALERS' PROFITS

At a recent gathering of artists in an uptown studio the matter of percentages of commission asked by certain dealers in prints came up, when it appeared that some well known firms were demanding 50% for sales of etchings by Americans, and only 25% for sales of those by foreigners. This seemed to the artists like unjust discrimination against the native artist, and various propositions were advanced as to how the artists might induce the dealers to be less exorbitant. Feeling became intense when one etcher testified that an old and established firm dealing in prints as a side line with their business of handling important paintings was satisfied to charge the American artist a commission of only 15%.

Considering the moderate prices charged by American artists for their etchings, it seemed to the artists present that there was little excuse for the prevailing fluctuation in the scale of commissions. Although no definite line of action was decided upon, it seemed, from the temper of the gathering, that an effort for the establishment of a more uniform scale would soon be made.

A sensation was sprung by the announcement that a director of the prints division of an important museum had been, and was believed to still be a member of a prominent firm dealing exclusively in prints. The manifest impropriety of such a situation was commented upon in rather strong language and the unethical spectacle of a business man being in a position to receive a salary for making purchase of his own wares was vigorously scored.

PAUL MANSHIP VICTORY PIN

An interesting souvenir to possess, commemorating the great victory achieved by the Allies, may be had in the form of a bronze Victory Pin designed by Paul ManSHIP, which is for sale by the Art War Relief at 661 Fifth Avenue. The price of the pin is \$1.00. All proceeds from the sale of these pins go to the work of the Art War Relief.

Miss Ava de Lagerkrantz has recently painted in her Carnegie Hall studio several portraits of unusual strength and quality. Perhaps the most notable is a bust presentment of Dr. Frits Holm, Commissioner of the Cuban Red Cross in his uniform and with his decorations. The subject, still a young man, has a serious thoughtful expression, well rendered. The artist's striking half length and well known presentment of Mlle. Greta Torpadje, the singer, is also on view in her studio. Miss Lagerkrantz, who is the daughter of the Swedish Admiral de Lagerkrantz, an admirable miniature of whom she has painted, was born in Sweden and studied in Paris under Lefebvre, Constant and Robert Fleury. She is a strong draughtswoman and has a rich color palette.

Important News to Manufacturers

GIMBEL BROTHERS take pleasure in announcing to manufacturers who are compelled to "lay off" some of their employees during the "dull or slack" season, that they will place all qualified help and employ them from now until Christmas.

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ART BOOK REVIEW

A HISTORY OF ITALIAN FURNITURE FROM THE XIV TO THE EARLY XIX CENTURIES. By William M. Odom. Doubleday, Page & Co., 1918.

An entrancing subject to all lovers of the beautiful is exhaustively handled by William M. Odom in his remarkable work on Italian furniture, of which Vol. 1 has just been published. The book is dedicated most appropriately to Signor Stefano Bardini, whose fine collections are well known to connoisseurs, both in Florence and through the exhibition and sale of part of the same in N. Y. last season. Mr. Odom pays tribute to Signor Bardini for the "preservation of the finest examples of Italian furniture," which evidently have been a great source of inspiration to the author.

The ground covered in this volume includes the XIV and early XV centuries in Chapter I, dealing with "Italian Gothic" art; the second half of the XV century in Chapter II, on the "Early Renaissance"; the first half of the XVI century in Chapter III, devoted to the "High Renaissance"; and the second half of the XVI century, in the final Chapter IV on the "Late Renaissance." These periods are comprehensively reviewed and the gradual evolution from the simplicity of the XIII century to the elaborate decorations and sumptuousness that already marked the early XV century forms an interesting topic for the opening pages.

It is impossible to do full justice to a work of this importance in the necessarily limited space available, and only the salient points can be noted for the information of students and art lovers to whom it will render invaluable service. As a chronicle of Italian art it touches on much that is of absorbing interest beyond the field of interior decoration and furniture. Architecture and, incidentally, paintings and sculpture, the great artists of the trecento, quattrocento and cinquecento, beside historic personages, all find their place in these pages, in regard to their influence on or relation to the artistic furniture of the three centuries in question.

The book is profusely and finely illustrated with half-tone engravings of great beauty that are in themselves a record of the finest examples of Italian decorative art. Cassoni, cofanetti, sedie and sgabelli, tables, beds, mirrors, credenze, candelabri, e tutti quanti, etc., are reproduced in their more or less elaborate forms, a delight to the eye and a joy to the student of mediæval and Renaissance art.

The Union League Club will exhibit fine book bindings in its December art display.

F. S. Church has taken a new studio in Carnegie Hall. He is now working on a picture that is to have a journalistic trend.